

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application courteously is requested.

By this paper, all of the original claims 1-15 have been canceled. New independent claims 16-19 are presented in their place. The new claims correspond to amended claims which obtained allowance in Applicants' counterpart application in Japan. Applicants submit these new claims as also allowable over the art cited of record in the present application. They also submit that the new claims fully are supported by the original disclosure. Hence, consideration of the new claims courteously is solicited.

Former claims 1-15 were rejected under both 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Each of these rejections has been made moot by the replacement of claims 1-15 with new claims 16-19.

Lastly, the amendments herewith to the claims result in one additional independent claim for which previous payment has not been made. Accordingly, the fee of \$210 is included in the check for the amount of \$330 that accompanies this paper.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Response and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejections and objections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any other fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033082 M 275. If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033082 M 275.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:

  
Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263  
1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1130  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202)263-4300  
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

Dated: January 25, 2008